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20 FEBRUARY 1968

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FROM: LTG YORK, CG XVIII ABN CORPS

TO : GEN WESTMORELAND, COMUSMACV

GEN. ID

EO 12812, Sec 3.3

DA Memo, Jan 5, 1988

By Def NARA Date 1-29-90

THE 3RD BRIGADE, 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION, SHOULD BE FULLY CLOSED IN VIETNAM BY OR BEFORE THEIR SCHEDULED DATE. I AM SURE THEY WILL DO YOU THE USUAL FINE AIRBORNE JOB.

I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT OVER 40 PERCENT OF THIS BRIGADE HAVE SERVED A TOUR IN VIETNAM. THEREFORE, THEY ARE DEEP IN EXPERIENCE. HOWEVER, TO FORM THIS BRIGADE THE REST OF THE DIVISION HAD TO BE STRIPPED DOWN TO CADRE STRENGTH. WELL OVER HALF THE PERSONNEL CAME FROM THE OTHER TWO BRIGADES. SINCE THIS WAS DONE ONLY A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE THEIR MOVEMENT DATE, THEY HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM. I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WILL HAVE A COUPLE OF WEEKS AFTER CLOSING IN COUNTRY TO SHAKE DOWN AND TRAIN TOGETHER. THIS IS GOOD. I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT THIS IS ESSENTIAL. YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT UNDER THE PERSONNEL CRITERIA UNDER WHICH THE BRIGADE DEPLOYED EACH INDIVIDUAL MUST HAVE BEEN BACK FROM VIETNAM FOR ONLY TWO MONTHS. I FOUND SEVERAL DEPARTING WHO BARELY MET THIS CRITERIA BY A DAY OR TWO. MANY HAVE ONLY BEEN BACK A FEW MONTHS. MANY OF THEM HAVE SHORT ETS. THERE IS ALSO THE FACT THAT THE UNIT IS BEING SENT OVER TDY, WHICH LENDS HOPE TO BOTH THE TROOPERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS THAT THEY WILL NOT BE OVER THERE TOO LONG.

IN VIEW OF THESE RATHER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE SITUATION PERMITTING, YOU MAY WISH TO GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO THE UTILIZATION OF THIS BRIGADE.

WARM REGARDS

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